Letter for Autism Stakeholders [Modify everything in Yellow]

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[DATE]

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Health

70 Colombine Driveway

Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Honourable Minister Hajdu,

[We are/ I am] writing to you today as a member of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) to thank this government on its commitment to embark on the creation of a National Autism Strategy. We are / I am) excited by the opportunity to support the work to be done by government officials and stakeholders to develop a crucial, comprehensive, pan-Canadian strategy to improve the quality of life for autistic Canadians and their families.

Aligned with CASDA, [we are/ I am] requesting the development of the National Autism Strategy be prioritized and actioned earlier in this government’s term – Canadians need this now. Collectively we believe the best path forward is to build on the rich consultations with over 10,000 stakeholders including provinces and territories through previous CASDA projects and, in the last year, summarized in CASDA’s Blueprint for a National Autism Strategy; weaving together early impactful successes and long-term goals.

Since the Senate *Pay Now or Pay Later* *Report* in 2007*,* the federal government has made investment in this area through CIHR research projects, the National Autism Surveillance Study, employment programing (RWA and EmploymentWorks), the funding of AIDE, and the implementation of the PHAC ASD Strategic Fund. These projects have been well received and have made some significant impact on autistic individuals. Although, to ensure all autistic Canadians have equal rights to lead full lives, regardless of their cultural background, gender, age, or their geographic location we now need to prioritize the development of a federally led strategy.

I am …. [introduce yourself]

My organization is …

[I am/We are] are a member of CASDA because [I/we] believe in the strength of a collective voice with a clear vision; that all autistic Canadians and their families have full and equitable access to the resources they need across a lifespan, where and when they need them.

CASDA has been an effective long-time partner of the federal government on many significant projects (some noted above). Through our national reach of over 200 members; servicing thousand of Canadian collectively, we are confident that CASDA’s diverse membership of leaders, families, and individuals can play a significant role in the development of the National Autism Strategy.

Please make room to prioritize the National Autism Strategy and provide CASDA a seat at the table as you move forward.

Thank you,

[Name and Title]